

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of a battery, &c. near Tilbury Fort; works at the Bedford County Prison; a ward at the West Ham Union Workhouse; a retort-house, chimney, coal and lime sheds, at the Monk-gate Gas Works, York; three shops and dwelling-houses, in Silver-street, Hull; and also for a supply of 1,600 tons of chairs and 40,000 sleepers (separate tenders), for the Bristol and Birmingham division of the Midland Railway.

RECOVERY OF DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S FEES.—At Guildhall, last week, Mr. G. A. Young, surveyor, came before the sitting magistrates to answer the complaint of Mr. Woodthorpe, the surveyor of the eastern district of the city of London, for neglecting to pay to him 2l. 2s., as his costs, pursuant to an award of the official referees. Mr. Young said he refused to pay this on the principle that those who endeavoured to serve the public ought not to be mulcted for their pains. In passing accidentally by America-square, he observed a house to be in a condition dangerous to the public, and he gave notice to the district surveyor of the fact. The surveyor thought the building safe, but he (defendant) still thought otherwise, and brought the matter under the notice of the official referees, having no personal interest in the matter at all, and interfering solely for the safety of the public. Mr. Woodthorpe said the case did not stand exactly as represented. Mr. Young would not have been asked to pay anything if he had not appealed against his decision. The surveyor for the owner of the house concurred with him that the building was safe, and so did the official referees; and as these four surveyors were of one opinion, the magistrates would believe Mr. Young was wrong, and had troubled them all unnecessarily. He had had eight attendances on the subject, and this might occur every day if it were not checked by ordering the payment of costs. He handed in the award to prove his case; and the magistrates, after referring to the statute, said their duty was only ministerial, to enforce payment of the award, without entering into its fairness or expediency. The fees must be paid. The district surveyor presented them to the poor-box.

BISHOP'S PALACE, HERFORD.—At a source given by the Herford Literary and Antiquarian Society last week, amongst other communications, the dean exhibited a number of drawings and plans of the ancient Norman refectory at the episcopal palace, remarking that the present entrance hall is, in fact, nothing but the ancient refectory encased. He explained, at some length, the construction of the roof, and exhibited a portion of one of the semicircular arches, with two of the capitals, which were all apparently of oak. He remarked that the arch consisted of a torus between two fillets. The nail-head ornament was also used. He went on to observe that the plan of the hall was that of a central portion, separated by longitudinal arches from two aisles; the roof of the central hall being spanned by three semicircular arches. The effect must have been very striking, from the massive simplicity of the construction. He found that the hall was used as a refectory for the canons in residence; and a book which he held in his hand contained a great many curious items in the accounts, illustrative of the regulations under which the members of the cathedral body were at that period.

THE INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS.—A conversation given by the Institute of Fine Arts, on Saturday last (14th) was very numerously attended: a good show of pictures and works of art occupied the walls and tables, and induced much pleasure and instructive chat. We should be glad to see a larger number of the elder members of the profession aiding in the progress of this institution, which would lead to the adoption of more extended views, and enable it to take a proper position. Even as it is, the exercise of energy and ability would greatly elevate its character.

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—The commissioners appointed to superintend the building of the new Houses of Parliament are, Earl Grey, Mr. Greene, M.P., and Sir John Burgoyne.

IMPROVEMENTS IN GALVANIZATION OF METALS.—Messrs. Morehead and Rogers have patented the use of alloys of zinc and tin, or zinc and lead, or all three, combined in certain cases with antimony (an electro-thermal antithesis to zinc, or a negative pole to it as the positive), in coating iron, whereby the protective power of the zinc is combined with certain other advantages, such as the obviation of its brittleness by aid of the tin, which is well known to coat iron without that tendency to scale off which zinc has manifested. The patentees have also protected various other improvements, such as the use of vapour of muriatic acid to dissolve the oxide generated on the iron surface, and the use of rollers plunged in a soft and not quite fluid bath of alloy, while the iron plates to be coated are pressed by the rollers during the process of coating.

PHILOSOPHY FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—The *Liverpool Mercury* very justly remarks, "Those who desire the stoppage of trade cannot do better than riot; those who desire increased taxation, impoverishing their employers, and thereby lessening work, will riot; those who desire severe government, restrictive laws, and legal bloodshedding will riot. But those who desire peace, and employment, and wages, and cheap food, will assist the middle classes in enforcing public economy and equal taxation, so that the limbs of industry may be free, and the fruits of industry may be enjoyed by all classes entitled to them."

PLUGGING AVOIDED.—The evils resulting from plugging in flues for skirting grounds, &c., often pointed out in our pages, have led a correspondent who signs himself "James Ivison," to suggest the manufacture of a brick with a dove-tail mortice in it to receive a plug formed in three pieces, an ingenious notion deserving of consideration. He says,—"I need not tell you how strongly plugging in green work is to be deprecated, more especially in work no thicker than 9 inches; and as to wood bricks, they seldom or ever remain tight. The plug-brick could be made of coarse pottery or hard brick material, or when it did not interfere with the bonding of the work, stone could be used of any size, as in the north of England it is extensively used and worked cheap. The plugs could be fixed in with marine glue, and built in the wall as the work proceeds."

THE CYLINDER RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE CONWAY.—This novel and bold piece of iron construction, designed by Mr. Robert Stephenson for the passage of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, has been floated to its position and is ready for hoisting. Two or three weeks, however, will probably elapse before it is in its place. The tube or cylinder is made of wrought-iron plates, varying in thickness from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch, riveted together, strengthened by T irons; and, to give additional strength to the whole, a series of cells is formed at the top and at the bottom of the tube, between an inner ceiling and floor and the exterior plates. The upper cells, eight in number, in the transverse section, are nearly square, being 1 foot 9 inches high, and 1 foot 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ wide. The lower cells, six in number, are 2 feet 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, by 1 foot 9 inches high. The space between side and side of the tube, is 14 feet, and the height of the whole, inclusive of the cells, is 22 feet 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the ends, and 25 feet 6 inches at the centre. The total length of the tube is 412 feet. One end of the tube will be fixed to the masonry of the pier, but the other end will be so arranged as to allow for the expansion of the metal by the action of atmospheric variations, and will, therefore, rest upon eleven rollers of iron, running on a bed of plate; and, that the whole weight of the tube may not be carried by these rollers, six girders are carried over the tube and riveted to the upper parts of the sides of the tube; and these side portions rest upon twelve balls of gun-metal running in grooves, which are fixed to iron beams let into the masonry.* The whole weight of the cylinder is stated to be 1,300 tons: two hydraulic rams of great power will be used to raise it. Its unmitigated ugliness is much to be deplored.

* The "Illustrated News" of March 11th, contains several views of the bridge, and diagrams showing the construction.

THE DEE BRIDGE.—From a conversation which took place in the House of Commons a few evenings since, it would appear that one of the remaining girders of the bridge had been cracked by a workman driving a pin into it with a four-pound hammer, and that some consternation had been excited. Mr. Strutt said he was enabled to state that, though there was no danger to the public in consequence of that crack, it was the immediate intention of the Company to remove the girder and replace it with a sound one. Precautions had in the meantime been taken by the Railway Commissioners that so long as the structure remained temporary it should be visited from time to time, and that if anything was seen likely to create alarm, or in any way inconsistent with the public safety, measures should be taken to provide against such a contingency, and a report made to the commissioners thereon.

THE LIVERPOOL STONEMASONS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS have had a misunderstanding as to the terms of an alleged mutual resolution, formally entered into between them in November last, whereby it is said to have been agreed that, while a reduction of wages to 27s. a week should then be submitted to by the men, a return to the previous rate would be made by the masters on 1st March, 1848. Some of the masters, however, as the workmen now complain, have refused to fulfil the latter terms of their mutual resolution, and a partial strike is the unfortunate result.

A SUBSCRIPTION for behoof of the unfortunate English, Irish, and Scottish workmen, to whom their fellow-workers in France have given "French leave" to quit the fraternal dominion of the Republic, has been opened by Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, with the sum of 200*l.* Messrs. Herries and Farquhar are the bankers to the Committee. The Provisional Government of France (quite unnecessarily, we imagine,) have warned all foreign workmen that they need not expect to reap any benefit by the grand schemes about to be carried out for behoof of the Parisian and other French operatives. They might at some time, however, have intimated that the savings and wages of those who have been expelled so summarily without either, would not be included under the equally grand schemes of confiscation already carried out in the suspension of savings and other bank payments in cash, by means of which so many of these poor people have already suffered, and are likely yet to suffer.

THE BATHS AND WASHHOUSES in George-street, Easton-square, since opening in August, 1846, have been attended by 179,000 bathers, and 56,237 washers, &c., of nearly 2,000,000 articles. The receipts for five weeks ending 12th inst. were 15*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; expenses, 11*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; profit, 35*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; donations, 60*l.*—reducing the building debt, of 815*l.* only now remaining and in rapid course of payment.

GAS IN MARYLEBONE.—Resolutions in favour of the admission of the Western Gas Company into the parish have been ultimately confirmed by a majority of 58 to 27 opposed to them. "The vestry was again densely crowded by the members, as was also the gallery by the rate-payers." One of the speakers, Mr. Glasier, in considering the reasonable prospect of benefit to the Western Company by allowing it to compete with the Imperial, reminded the meeting that "the Imperial were in the habit of paying 6 per cent., and 3 per cent. bonus, and that they had a reserve fund of 200,000*l.*" The Western, he observed, had recently expended 40,000*l.* in their works.

THE NEW NATIONAL GALLERY.—A subscriber says,—"I have reason to believe it is the intention to erect houses on the area occupied by Leicester-square. Before such an opportunity is entirely lost, might it not be suggested to secure so eligible, and central, a site for a National Gallery, and render it a building an ornament to the country, and appropriate to its purpose. A grand quadrangular edifice might be formed in every respect suited to such a purpose."

PETITIONS AGAINST THE PATENT LAWS.—We understand that petitions, praying for a reformation of the great abuses which at present exist in the patent laws, are in course of signature. Reformation is greatly needed.